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Alabama Historical Commission votes to keep Middle Bay Light in bay

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) unanimously approved a resolution today that keeps the Middle Bay Lighthouse in Mobile Bay, and directs \$30,000 to be spent annually to maintain the lighthouse.

The vote was taken as a response to a formal proposal by the Alabama Lighthouse Association that recommends moving the lighthouse ashore next to the U.S.S. Alabama at Battleship Park.

"We did not make this decision lightly, but it is the right decision. We are deeply grateful to the Alabama Lighthouse Association for their work in helping us to maintain Middle Bay Light. And we look forward to working with them and others in preserving this important Alabama landmark," said AHC Executive Director Frank W. White.

Dan Dealy, project manager for the Alabama Lighthouse Association, said, "The Alabama Lighthouse Association is appreciative and excited that the Alabama Historical Commission officially recognizes its role in the preservation and maintenance of Middle Bay Light as an endearing and enduring Alabama icon.

"We welcome the opportunity to partner with the AHC in a formal monitoring and maintenance program for Middle Bay Lighthouse, with her out in the bay."

"The Bar Pilots are grateful that the Commission has decided to keep the lighthouse in place, and we are looking forward to working with others in the community to raise funds to maintain the light. The light helps bar pilots navigate through the bay, and is enjoyed by boaters and sailors as well," said Captain J.D. Smith, Mobile Bar Pilots.

Middle Bay Lighthouse began operating in 1885 with a kerosene-powered light, and has served as a navigational aid for over 100 years. In 1977, the General Services Administration and the National Parks Service approved a transfer of ownership of the lighthouse to the AHC.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*